

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-14 SSO-00 ISO-00 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS - RTYNER:WBROWN:MG

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S/S - JPMOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 224717

TOSEC 95

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV 10/11/74

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

1. ALL MORNING RADIO NETWORK PROGRAMS OCT. 11 REPORT ON
ACCIDENT IN PLANE USING FOLLOWING VOICE COMMENT FROM
SECRETARY:

"I WAS STANDING IN THE REAR COMPARTMENT TALKING TO SOME
PEOPLE WHEN I HEARD WHAT SOUNDED TO ME LIKE A TRAY FALLING
DOWN AND MINUTES LATER SOMEBODY CALLED FOR A DOCTOR. I
WENT TO MY FORWARD COMPARTMENT BECAUSE I THOUGHT THE PLANE
WAS TAKING OFF AND SOME SECURITY PEOPLE CAME IN AND
PULLED DOWN THE SHADES SAYING THE SOMEBODY HAD BEEN
WOUNDED AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE WALTER BOTHE. AS IT
APPEARED, HE WAS WOUNDED BY ONE OF HIS OWN GUNS THAT HAD
FALLED OFF THE RACK DURING TAKEOFF. I KNEW HE WOULD TAKE
DRASTIC STEPS TO GET OFF MY DETAIL BUT HE HAS GONE TO
EXTREMES TO DO THIS."

2. OTHER COVERAGE GENERALLY SCANT. FOLLOWING TWO KALB
REPORTS ALSO MONITORED:

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A. CBS - RADIO FROM CAIRO: IT IS BELIEVED KISSINGER

CONVEYED ISRAEL'S LATEST THINKING TO THE EGYPTIAN LEADERS AND THAT SADAT AND FAHMI EMPHASIZED THEIR INTERESTS IN PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN ANOTHER GENEVA CONFERENCE. KISSINGER IS NOT ECSTATIC ABOUT SUCH A MEETING NOW -- FIRST, BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS WILL OBJECT TO A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION AND, SECOND, BECAUSE HE, KISSINGER, FEELS THE CONFERENCE IS USEFUL ONLY TO RATIFY THE RESULTS OF A PRIOR NEGOTIATION. OTHERWISE IT MIGHT EASILY DETERIORATE INTO A PROPAGANDA SHOUTING MATCH. THEREFORE, KISSINGER WANTS TO SET UP A NEGOTIATION FIRST AND THE CONFERENCE LATER. SOME ARABS DISAGREE. IF KISSINGER CAN PERSUADE SADAT TO GO HIS WAY THEN HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL OFF ANOTHER COUP.

B. CBS TV-RADIO FROM DAMASCUS: KISSINGER FLEW INTO DAMASCUS HOPING TO COUNSEL PATIENCE HERE BUT KNOWING THAT IMPATIENCE HAS BEEN FUELED IN SYRIA BY FRESH AND CONTINUING INFUSIONS OF SOVIET ARMS. HE COMPLETED THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PEACE-MAKING EFFORT LAST MIDNIGHT, THREE HOURS OF PRIVATE TALKS WITH SADAT. PROGRESS WAS CITED BUT DETAILS WERE SCARCE. WHAT KISSINGER IS SEEKING IS AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE TIMING, THE ISSUES, THE PLACE AND THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE NEXT PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATION. KISSINGER AND SADAT CHECKED OUT MAPS OF THE SINAI DURING THEIR TALKS. APPARENTLY NOTHING WILL BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL AFTER THE ARABS HOLD THEIR SUMMIT MEETING IN MOROCCO ON OCTOBER 26TH.

THERE WAS A FLARE UP OF CONCERN IN FLIGHT ON KISSINGER'S PLANE AS IT WAS TAXING FOR TAKEOFF FROM CAIRO. SECRET SERVICE AGENT WALTER BOTHE, 33, FROM ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, SUFFERED WOUNDS IN HIS RIGHT ARM AND ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE HEAD WHEN A GUN IN ITS CASE FELL OFF A RACK IN THE REAR OF THE BOEING 707 AND ONE ROUND WENT OFF ACCIDENTALLY. THE AGENT WHO HAS BEEN PROTECTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TWO YEARS IS IN GOOD CONDITION. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE224717
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RTYNER:WBROWN:MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740290-0034
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741051/aaaabrur.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV 10/11/74 FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005